

III.—On the Burmese genus *Sophina*.

By W. H. BENSON, Esq.

FURTHER contributions of shells from the vicinity of Moulmein have enabled me to present more correct diagnoses of *Sophina forabilis* and *S. Calias* than those published in the 'Annals' for May and June 1859; also to state that the singular rift in the columella is common to all the three species assigned to the genus. *S. forabilis* has been found by Capt. J. C. Haughton at the caves of Damathá. The imperfect specimen first described was from the Tenasserim Valley, and was defective at the most important part of the aperture, as were also those of *S. Calias* first sent by Major R. H. Sankey. Hopes were entertained that the present notes might have been accompanied by some account of the animal of *Sophina*; but unfortunately it has not yet been obtained in a living state.

It appears highly probable that the Mollusk may be allied rather to the bitentaculate, bathrommatous, and inoperculate Western genera *Ceres* and *Proserpina*, than to the acrommatous genus *Helix*; but at present this can be merely a matter for conjecture. Even if this singular form should prove to be really Helicidous in character, its separation from *Helix* will rest on as strong or even stronger grounds than some of the groups which have, by common consent, been accepted as genera; and it may possibly take its place between *Nanina* and *Glandina*.

Sophina, B., gen. nov. (char. emend.).

Testa Heliciformis; columella callosa, declivis, cum margine basali angulum efformans; angulus rimatus, rima in carina umbilicali spirali desinente; callus parietalis tenuis expansiusculus.

Helix (Sect. *Sophina*, B., Ann. Nat. Hist. ser. 3. vol. iii. p. 473).

Sophina Calias, B. (char. emend.).

Testa anguste umbilicata, orbiculato-depressa, solidiuscula, oblique striatula, polita, pallide cornea; spira planata, apice saliente, obtuso, sutura marginata, canaliculata; anfractibus 5 subconvexis, sensim accrescentibus, ultimo ad ambitum rotundato, subtus convexiusculo; apertura lunata, obliqua, peristomate recto, acuto, margine columellari oblique recurvatim descendente, calloso, extus crenulato, cum basali angulum fere rectum, arcu rimatum, efformante, rima extremitatem carinæ umbilicalis, sensim spiraliter intrantis, incidente; umbilici perspectivi pariete intus horizontaliter confertim sulcato.

Diam. major 9, minor $7\frac{1}{2}$, axis 4 mill.

Habitat prope Moulmein, ad cavernas "Farm Caves" dictas.

Syn. *Helix Calias*, Benson, Ann. Nat. Hist. ser. 3. vol. iii. p. 473.

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Sophina forabilis, B. (char. emend.).

Testa subanguste et profunde umbilicata, conoideo-semiglobosa, tenui, oblique striatula, spiraliter confertissime striata, cornea; spira depresso-conoidea, apice elevatiusculo, obtuso, sutura impressa; anfractibus 6 convexiusculis, ultimo non descendente, ad ambitum rotundato, circa umbilicum perspectivum intus spiraliter striatum carinato, carina spirali, intrante; apertura obliqua, rotundato-lunata, peristomate recto, acuto, margine columellari oblique recurvatim descendente, crassiusculo, subcrenato, cum basali angulum fere rectum, arcte rimatum, efformante, rima extremitatem carinæ umbilicalis incidente.

Diam. major 6-8, minor $5\frac{1}{2}$ -7, axis 3-4 mill.

Habitat ad Phai-Thán vallis Tenasserim, et ad Cavernam Damathá prope Moulmein.

Syn. *Helix forabilis*, Benson, Ann. Nat. Hist. ser. 3. vol. iii. p. 389. Sect. *Sophina*, p. 473.

The three species already known inhabit the vicinity of Moulmein; only one of them has also been found elsewhere. The third and largest (*S. schistostelis*, B.) was sufficiently described, in the paper last quoted, as a *Helix* of the section now treated as a distinct genus. It appears to be scarcely within the bounds of probability that a form so peculiar should be confined to the limited tract in which it has hitherto been collected. Species may have been overlooked, or regarded by persons unacquainted with the subject as merely broken shells, both in the Malay peninsula and in Siam,—possibly even in Cochin China. Other unusual Tenasserim types have occurred in the two countries last named.

Cheltenham, Dec. 3, 1859.

Note.—I have employed the terms “bathrommatous” and “acrommatous” as expressive of certain characters in the animals of shells, and saving recourse to unnecessary details, thereby filling a void in conchological nomenclature. The former word has reference to genera in which the eyes are situated at the base of the tentacula, the latter to those in which they are placed at the summit.

IV.—On the *Lepton sulcatulum* of Mr. Gwyn Jeffreys.

By WILLIAM CLARK, Esq.

To the Editors of the *Annals of Natural History*.

GENTLEMEN,

Bath, 21st November, 1859.

It is very desirable to correct the errors of science without delay; I therefore venture to request the insertion of a short paper in your excellent Journal.